



Know It!

an e-news service for our partners from the Howard County Tourism Team

MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S TOURISM INDUSTRY CONFERENCE

Howard County Wildlife Viewing Brochure wins Award for Best Printed Promotional Material

This annual event, hosted by the Maryland Tourism Council and the Maryland Office of Tourism, recognizes the marketing efforts of tourism professionals with its industry awards. The popular and eco-friendly Howard County Wildlife Viewing Brochure made its debut in January 2008 with nearly all 10,000 copies distributed and in the hands of visitors and residents. "It is a great honor for Howard County Tourism to have received this award. It is even more of an honor to have worked with the many partnering organizations who made the project possible, all who shared the same goal of marketing the county's eco-tourism attractions and amenities," said Amanda Hof, Tourism's Special Events & Projects Manager.

New Tourism Professional of the Year

was awarded to Cheryl Clemens, Director of Sales at Toby's Dinner Theatre. Cheryl has not only grown business at Toby's tremendously over the last year, but is actively engaged in growing tourism in Howard County and the state of Maryland. "Cheryl consistently goes above and beyond to help those in the industry," said Michelle Murphy of Toby's. "Her spirit and commitment can serve as a model for others." We're proud to have Cheryl serving on our special events and Soiree committees, and always available as a resource and valued partner.

The Ghosts Wrap Up Another Successful Season

1,275 people visited Historic Ellicott City and Historic Savage Mill in October for Ghost Tours. This was an 11% increase over October of 2007! The season officially closed November 29, 2008. The 2009 Ghost Tour season kicks off with Friday the 13th tours in February and March.

Tourism Goes to Trade Shows - You Get the Leads

HC Tourism again joined Team Maryland at the 25th Annual Meetings Quest Washington D.C. tradeshow in November. Executive Director Rachelina Bonacci said, This one-day event is the most efficient way to meet face to face with suppliers that want to assist you in producing successful meetings." We welcome your feedback on any leads we provide.

Holiday Travel Strong, Still Valued Despite Economic Challenges

The Travel Industry Association reports that Thanksgiving and Christmas travel will be almost as strong as last year, despite

SAVE THE DATES

Partners in Art! Networking Mixer

Friday, January 30

6 - 8 pm

Join fellow Tourism Partners and art enthusiasts at the Howard County Arts Council's opening Gallery Reception. Vote for the People's Choice Awards and enter to win prize drawings! Free to all current tourism partners. Details to come.

Restaurant Weeks: February 23 - March 7

Howard County's independent restaurants are planning another popular restaurant week! The 2 week promotion, offering a fixed price menu at more than 20 local restaurants, draws residents and visitors alike to discover our fine dining options. For information on sponsorship opportunities, contact sue@visithowardcounty.com for more information.

SOIREE! Tourism's Annual Fundraiser

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Enjoy an evening of fabulous dining, while bidding to win exciting travel packages - and cheer as you watch our Dazzling Dancing Stars! In the beautiful tented gardens at Belmont Conference Center. Take this opportunity to showcase your business! Sponsorships now available and auction items are welcome

For information on sponsorships and restaurant participation, click [here](#).

Contact Amanda Hof for information:

Amanda@visithowardcounty.com / 410-313-1904

Tickets go on SALE January 1, 2009

PARTNER Opportunities

Hotel Breakfast Club

This bimonthly networking meeting is open to hoteliers as well as any partners interested in group sales leads and industry networking.

growing concerns about the economy. These results support the AAA holiday travel forecast, which predicts 41 million holiday travelers in 2008, a modest 1.4 percent decline over 2007, and about the same as 2006.

Why do people travel? A desire to maintain traditions, create memories and build relationships, according to a unique Harris Interactive survey.

Despite continued bad news about the economy, tourism may be one of the most favorable business sectors. "By no means is the sky falling," said Dr. Suzanne Cook, Senior Vice President of Research at TIA. "After years of growth, we're now looking at modest declines. The travel industry can manage the downturn, but it is in the country's interest to stimulate travel as one of the best means to stimulate our economy."

Partners in the News

The Inn at Peralynna Shares Expertise

Preparing for out of town guests this holiday? Cynthia Lynn, owner with husband David of the Inn at Peralynna, says it's simple: "Be as welcoming as you can be." Preparing 18 guest rooms at her inn gives them lots of experience in providing a cozy and pampering retreat. The Baltimore Sun recently took a tour, providing beautiful photos and tips for preparing a similar style at home.

New York Times Finds Bob's BMW

Calling owner Bob Henig "legendary," the New York Times recently put this unique Howard County landmark on the map. "He always puts the customer first," said a spokesman for BMW motorcycles. Far more than just a motorcycle or repair shop, customers flock to Bob's for regular events, the in-house vintage motorcycle museum, legendary charity projects, and the ever present pot of coffee and hospitality.

Happy One Year Anniversary!

Victoria Gastro Pub celebrates an exciting first year this month. Congratulations and Thank You Victoria Gastro Pub!



Enjoy coffee and light breakfast hosted by our partner hotels. FREE for Tourism Partners and guests, but reply is required: register@visithowardcounty.com

COMING JANUARY 8

GUEST SPEAKER:

Tom Noonan, CEO
Baltimore Area Convention
& Visitors Association

Time: 8:30 - am

Place: Best Western BWI Center
Hotel, 6755 Dorsey Rd., Elkridge

Do you have new brochures? Make sure we have your current brochures and fliers to display in the Visitors Center.

Historic Ellicott City is Maryland's "Capital for a Day"

On Friday, Dec. 5, Gov. O'Malley proclaimed Ellicott City as the state's ceremonial Capital for a Day, and spent the day touring the historic district and other sites in the county. He attended the holiday tree lighting, kicking off the town's annual "Midnight Madness."

Free meters for holiday parking in the Historic District through Dec. 31!

OUR ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:

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Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
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team@visithowardcounty.com

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